

tizens, they bound themselves together in order to dedicate their lives to the amelioration of suffering society. God blessed their undertaking and the St. Vincent de Paul Society worked wonders in that land, and, in the course of time, passing the boundaries of France, went forth spreading its beneficent influence throughout other nations. I have been informed that almost in a similar manner, on the 18th of October, 1905, nineteen persons, ecclesiastics and laymen, gathered in the home of the Most Reverend Archbishop of Chicago, and after having taken into serious consideration the squalid state of many poor desolate missions in the United States, they recognized the necessity of prompt action, and, full of zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of souls, they at once started the Catholic Church Extension Society.

May God grant that this noble religious movement which had its beginnings in Chicago, may in the course of time equal in success the great Christian philanthropic association of St. Vincent de Paul which had its origin in France.

Of this success I entertain no doubt. Yours is a holy movement, long expected and greatly needed and cannot fail to touch the heart of the generous American public, even in a manner more efficient than other associations which, though praiseworthy in their beneficence cannot equal in their aim the great object you have in view, namely the preservation of the Faith and the salvation of souls.

Most heartily do I bless the Society and pray that God may crown your efforts with ample success.

With sentiments of the highest esteem, I beg to remain

Most faithfully yours in Xt..

D. FALCONIO,

Apostolic Delegate.

The Reverend Francis Clement Kelley,  
President,

Catholic Church Extension Society,  
Lapeer, Michigan.